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Amendments to the Specification

The text of the Abstract has been replaced as provided above. Such replacement Abstract is provided in response to the Examiner's suggestion thereto (pages 3-4 of Final Office action). The replacement Abstract is supported at least by page 2, line 6 to page 11, line 18 of the Specification as originally filed. The Applicant believes that the replacement Abstract is of proper form and addresses the issues as put forth by the Examiner. No new matter has been introduced by way of the replacement Abstract.

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 19 has been amended as provided above. Specifically, claim 19 has been amended to recite dependence from claim 17. Such amendment to claim 19 is further provided to address the Examiner's Objection on grounds of improper dependence from (previously) cancelled claim 18 (page 4 of Final Office action). No new matter has been introduced through the amendment to claim 19.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 6-8, 13-17 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,192,380 ("Light"), in view of *Document Image Understanding*, Dept. of Computer Science, SUNY Buffalo, IEEE Document No. CH2345-7/86/000/0087, 1996, pp. 87-96 ("Srihari").

Claims 2-4 and 9-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Light in view of Srihari, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,040,832 ("Poreh").

1 Withdrawal of Final Rejections:

2 Notwithstanding the respective Final rejections cited above, the Applicant
3 sustains his contention that claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-17 and 19 (as previously amended)
4 are allowable over the prior art for all of the reasons set forth in the previous
5 response, and respectfully requests that the Examiner give due consideration in
6 review to the arguments set forth therein. The Applicant contends that a careful
7 review by the Examiner of the prior art, and the arguments set forth in the previous
8 response, will fully support withdrawal of the respective final rejections of claims 1-4,
9 6-11, 13-17 and 19, as respectively amended, and timely allowance thereof.

10
11 Summary

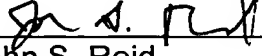
12 The Applicant believes that this response constitutes a full and complete
13 response to the Final Office action. Therefore, the Applicant requests withdrawal of
14 the Final rejections and timely allowance of claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-17 and 19, as
15 respectively and previously amended.

16 The Examiner is requested to contact the below-signed representative if the
17 Examiner believes this will facilitate prosecution toward allowance of the claims.

18
19 Respectfully submitted,

20 Michael J. BORG

21
22 Date: June 22, 2005

23 By: 
24 John S. Reid
25 Attorney and agent for Applicant(s)
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